MORNING and EVENING

PRAYERS

FOR Worth

Private Families:

WITH A

LETTER

SHEWING

The Neceſſity and Advantages of performing that Duty.

As for me and my Houſe we will ſerve the Lord. Joſh. xxiv. 15.

To which are added ſome Devotions for a Perſon in Private.

The Third EDITION.

DUBLIN.

Printed by A. RHAMES, for R. GUNNE in *Capel-ſtreet*, M DCC XXXIII.

BRITISH MUSEUM

My dear Brethren and Pariſhioners.

HAVING oftentimes from the Pulpit, and alſo in your private Houſes, earneſtly recommended to you, the great, but much neglected Duty, of ſerving GOD by publick Prayers in your Families; as one of the beſt means of promoting Piety and Religion amongſt us; and to the Neglect of which, we may juſtly aſcribe a large Share of the Prophaneneſs and Immorality of the preſent Age; and having with much Concern obſerved, that as ſome amongſt you are not willing to be at the Pains, ſo others are not able to chooſe for themſelves proper and ſuitable Prayers upon ſuch Occaſions, and that too often this unhappy Neglect has proceeded from the want of a Prayer Book: In order therefore to leave no room for any Excuſe hereafter, I have for the greater eaſe and Benefit of ſuch amongſt you, (who ſtand in need of ſuch an Aſſiſtance) procured the following Prayers to be printed; which are chiefly taken out of the moſt excellent Liturgy of our Church.

And becauſe the conſcientious Care of your private Families is a Matter, wherein, not only your own, but the Happineſs of the Publick is greatly concern'd, and is indeed the Foundation upon which all other Duties of Religion do in a great Meaſure depend, (this being as it were the Nurſery, wherein the firſt Seeds of Virtue or Vice, are ſown in the Minds of Men; and where your Children receive with greateſt Eaſe, the earlieſt and happieſt Impreſſions of Religion) I ſhall take leave to preſs this neceſſary, but much neglected Duty of Family Prayer, upon your Conſciences, by laying before you,

Firſt, Your Obligations to the Performance of this Duty.

Secondly, The great Advantages and Bleſſings that will attend you, and all under your Care, in the conſcientious Diſcharge of it.

As to the *Firſt*; we have ſuch full and comprehenſive Proofs, both from Scripture, and the reaſonableneſs of this Duty, that I believe no Chriſtian will diſpute the Obligation of it; Our SAVIOUR Commands us to *Watch and Pray, that we enter not into Temptation.* And again he tells us, that *Men ought always to pray, and*

Matt. xxvi. 41.

Luke xviii. 1.

and not to Faint. Be carefull for nothing (ſays St. *Paul*) *but in every thing by Prayer and Supplication, with Thanksgiving, let your Requeſts be made known unto* GOD. In other Places he commands us to *continue inſtant in Prayer*, to *Pray without ceaſing*, and to Pray *every where, lifting up holy Hands*, which general Expreſſions, tho' they may as well be underſtood, of the private Prayers of good Men, as of thoſe which are perform'd in a more publick Manner: And tho' they do not in direct Words command the Performance of this Duty in our Families, yet that this is implyed in thoſe general Exhortations, will ſufficiently appear from that great and glorious Encouragement, which our SAVIOUR has expreſly annexed to our more publick Adorations of GOD. *If two of you* (ſays he) *ſhall agree on Earth, as touching any thing that they ſhall ask, it ſhall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven, for where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midſt of them.*

Phil. iv. 6.
Rom. xii. 12
1. Theſſ. v. 17.
1. Tim. ii. 8.

But if this Argument for Family Prayer ſhould be thought to ſtand in need of any further Proof to clear it up. Be pleaſed to conſider, *Se-*

condly, That good Men have always look'd upon this as a neceſſary Duty, and that accordingly it has been the conſtant Practice of the Beſt of GOD's Servants, ever ſince Religion hath been planted in the World; and certainly the Practice of ſuch Men, muſt be allow'd to be the moſt convincing and ſatisfactory Interpretation of GOD's Will in ſuch a Caſe. When GOD promiſed *Abraham*, that he would *bleſs him, and make his Name Great*, and that *All the Nations of the Earth ſhould be bleſſed in him*; he gives this as a Reaſon for his directing ſo great an Honour to him; *For I know him* (ſays GOD) *that he will command his Children, and his Houſe after him, and they ſhall keep the Way of the Lord, to do Juſtice and Judgment.* This great Patriarch was careful to keep up the Worſhip and Fear of GOD, in his own Family, and this was a good Reaſon in GOD's Account, *not only for bleſſing him, but that all the Families of the Earth ſhould be bleſſed in him.*

Gen. xviii. 18, 19.

Gen. xii. 3.

And ſuch was the Diſcipline under which Chriſtians were brought up in the Primitive Church, that all poſſible Care was taken for the regular and punctual Diſcharge of thoſe Duties

Duties in which their private Families were concerned: At their first rising in the Morning, they were wont to meet together, and to betake themselves to Prayer; to praise God for the Protection and Refreshment of the Night, and to beg his Grace and Blessing for the following Day; And this was done by the Master of the House, unless some Minister of Religion were present. They met again at nine, at twelve, and at three in the Afternoon. And at Night, before their going to Rest, their Family was again called to Prayer. Chrisost. Hom. 1. de precati. Tom. I. p. 750.

These were their usual Hours of Prayer, in which they punctually perform'd their Family Devotions. Nay, so careful they were to instill Religion betimes into the Minds of their Children and others, that it seemed to grow up, and mix it self with their ordinary Labours and Recreations; so that as St. *Hierom* informs us, you cou'd not go into the Field, but you might hear the Plowman at his *Hallelujahs*, the Mower at his *Hymns*, and the Vine-dresser singing the *Psalms* of *David*. Cyprian. de Orat. Dom. p. 196. Hierom. Epist. ad Marcel. Tom. I. p. 127.

I have one Thing more to offer to you upon this Head, which I am sure either will, or ought to have its weight with you.

Consider

Conſider then that your Families are a Truſt committed to your Care and Management by Almighty GOD, a Truſt of which he will one Day exact a moſt ſevere Account, and that (if any of them miſcarry thro' your means or neglect) he will certainly require their Blood at your Hands.

Conſider alſo, That your Children, whom I am chiefly recommending to your Care, are a Part of your ſelves; and as you have been the Means of bringing them into this World, into a State of great Trials, and powerful Temptations; (where they muſt work hard, and Labour mightily for their eternal State, if ever they expect to be happy in it) that it will be a moſt unnatural Cruelty in you, not to make a ſuitable Proviſion for ſuch Creatures.

You are miſtaken, if you think that you have done your Parts, when you have fed and cloathed them; The Soul may be ſtarved as well as the Body, and the Conſequence ought to be much more dreadful to your Apprehenſions. And can you look upon your ſelves as kind and good Parents, if you ſuffer your Children to be eternally undone by your Neglects? With what Shame and

Horrour

Horrour will you look upon your own Guilt in the other World, to hear your Children crying out to GOD against you, and laying their Blood, their everlasting Ruin at your Doors; for neglecting to train them up in the Fear of GOD, by a faithful Discharge of those Duties which you owe to your Families.

And thus I hope I have said enough, in a few Words to convince you of the Obligations you are under of performing the Duty of publick Prayers in your Families. I shall now proceed,

Secondly, To lay before you some of those Advantages and Blessings, which will attend you, and all under your Care, in the conscientious Discharge of this Duty.

And, *First*, It cannot, I think, be denied, but that this is one of the most effectual Means, of keeping Mens Minds in a truly Pious and Christian Temper, and consequently a great help towards reforming the World, which is at present extreamly corrupt, and seems every Day to grow worse.

For by thus addressing our selves constantly to GOD in our Families, we are taught to live with an entire Submission to his Providence, and

De-

Dependance upon his Goodneſs. When we confeſs before him, that we have offended him, by a willful Violation of his Laws, this will imprint on our Minds, a great Senſe of our unworthineſs and ingratitude to the beſt of Beings; it will humble us in our own Eyes, for acting ſo far below our Nature, and make us more cautious and careful of our Conduct for the Time to come.

When we offer up our Petitions as we ought, this cannot but raiſe in our Minds the nobleſt Thoughts of the infinite Perfections of God, of his Soveraignity and Power, of his Goodneſs and Mercy to all his Creatures: We cannot but look upon that Being, to whom we preſent our Prayers, as one who knows, and ſees into all our Deſigns and Actions; as one who has his Eye continually fix'd upon us, and from whoſe Preſence we are not able to flee; For otherwiſe it would be in vain to pray to him. Now theſe (it muſt be allow'd) are great Motives to Virtue, and Powerful Reſtraints to Sin, and it will not be eaſy for any one to break through them; Nay, they can ſcarce indeed fail of having a moſt happy influence upon our whole Behaviour, of checking us in all our little pri-

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vate Designs of Malice and Revenge, and in a Word of putting us in Mind, that we ought to make it our chief Endeavour in this World, to please and obey GOD.

Secondly, By performing this Duty constantly, we shall have the Pleasure of knowing, that all the Souls committed to our Care, do at least pay, open and publick Homage to Almighty GOD every Day. And indeed without this, we can have no reasonable Assurance that they serve GOD at all. For what between the Forgetfulness of some; the Coldness and indifference of others in Matters of Religion, and the usual Hurry of worldly Business that most Men are engaged in, we shall find (I fear) upon a just Enquiry, that there is very little private Devotion in that Family, where GOD is not worshipp'd in a publick Way.

Thirdly, It is a common, and I believe a very just Observation, that few Men are happy in their Children or Servants, and that oftentimes a Man's worst Enemies, are they *of his own House*; and the Reason I think is very plain, they take little or no Care of their Families; they instill no Principles

of

of Religion and Virtue into them when they are Young, and their Minds tender and plyable, and capable of receiving the impreſſions of Good or Evil. And he muſt be very Sanguine indeed, who can hope for a dutyful Child, or an honeſt and faithful Servant from ſuch ſad Beginnings as theſe.

But if Men would ſo far conſult their own Happineſs, as to oblige all under their influence to an orderly and regular Performance of Family Duties; If they would thus *train them up in the Way in which they ſhould Walk*, we have all the Reaſon in the World to believe, that *when they are old, they will not depart from it*; and thus we ſhould be bleſſed with dutiful Children, and faithful Servants.

Fourthly and *Laſtly*, If you believe that GOD governs this World, that his Providence is concerned not only in the great Changes, and Revolutions of the World, but extends even to ſuch minute and inconſiderable Events, that the very *Hairs of your Heads are Numbred*, and that a *Sparrow cannot fall to the Ground without his Knowledge*; If it is

6. Sam. 2. 1, 7, 8. GOD that *killeth and maketh alive that bringeth down to the Grave, and*

and bringeth up; that maketh Poor, and maketh Rich; that bringeth low, and lifteth up, that raiſeth the poor out of the Duſt, and lifteth up the Beggar from the Dunghill. In a Word, if it is GOD, from whom all your Bleſſings are derived, and from whoſe Hands you *receive Evil.* If you ſeriouſly believe all this, ſurely I need not tell you, that it is your intereſt, as well as Duty, by the fervent and united Prayers of all thoſe under your influence and Care, to have daily Recourſe to that great and powerfull Being, to engage him in the Favour and Protection of you and your Families, and in *every Thing by Prayers and Supplications, with Thankſgivings,* to let *your Requeſts be made known unto GOD, That he may bleſs thee in the City, and bleſs thee in the Field; bleſs thee in the Fruit of thy Body, and the Fruit of thy Ground, and the Fruit of thy Cattle, and the Increaſe of thy Kine, and the Flocks of thy Sheep; That he may bleſs thee in thy Basket, and thy Store; bleſs thee when thou comeſt in, and bleſs thee when thou goeſt out, and that the LORD may bleſs thee in all thou ſetteſt thine Hand unto.*

Phil. iv. 6.

Deut. xxviii. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

And therefore to conclude, let me beſeech you in the Name of GOD, that you will not think it too great a Tribute to pay to him who made you, and daily heaps his Bleſſings upon you; to lay out a few Minutes of that Time, which he freely beſtows on you, in theſe holy Offices, every Morning and Evening of your Lives; always remembring, that GOD will give only to thoſe *who ask*, be *found* of none, but *thoſe who ſeek him*; and beſtow his Bleſſings only there, where they are humbly and earneſtly implored. And *bleſſed is that ſervant, whom his Lord, when he cometh, ſhall find ſo doing.*

Thus my dear Friends, I have in a few Words, offered you my Thoughts upon this uſeful and important Subject of Family Prayer, and ſo recommending you, and the Succeſs of this Deſign to the great Diſpoſer of all Things,

I remain,

Your truly affectionate

Servant,

ESSEX EDGWORTH.

Morning Prayer for a FAMILY.

O Lord, we know not what to pray for as we ought, O let thy Spirit help our Infirmities, and enable us at this Time to offer up a ſpiritual Sacrifice acceptable unto thee, by Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, we have erred and ſtrayed from thy Ways like loſt Sheep; we have followed too much the Devices and Deſires of our own Hearts; we have offended againſt thy holy Laws; we have left undone thoſe Things which we ought to have done, and we have done thoſe Things which

we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us; but thou O Lord have Mercy upon us, miſerable Offenders; ſpare thou them O God, which confeſs their Faults; reſtore thou them that are penitent, according to thy Promiſes, declared unto Mankind in Chriſt Jeſu, our Lord: and grant O moſt merciful Father for his Sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and ſober Life, to the Glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

O Lord, we beſeech thee, mercifully hear our Prayers, and ſpare all thoſe who confeſs their Sins unto thee; that they whoſe Conſciences by Sin are accuſed, by thy merciful Pardon may be abſolved through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord our heavenly Father, almighty and everlaſting God, who has ſafely brought us to the Beginning

ginning of this Day, defend us in the ſame with thy mighty Power; and grant that this Day, we fall into no Sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our Doings may be ordered by thy Governance to do always that is righteous in thy Sight, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O God merciful Father, that deſpiſeſt not the ſighing of a contrite Heart, nor the deſire of ſuch as be ſorrowful, mercifully aſſiſt our Prayers that we make before thee, in all our Troubles and Adverſities, whenſoever they oppreſs us; and graciouſly hear us, that thoſe Evils which the Craft and Subtilty of the Devil, or Man worketh againſt us, be brought to nought, and by the Providence of thy Goodneſs, they may be diſperſed; that we thy Servants, being hurt by no Perſecutions, may evermore give

Thanks unto thee, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O Almighty God, to whom alone belong the Iſſues of Life and Death, and who by manifold Inſtances of Mortality, doſt call upon us, ſeriouſly to conſider, and to prepare for our own Departure, give us Grace we beſeech thee to haſten, and not delay the Time to fit our ſelves for thy Favour and Acceptance. Teach us ſo to Number our Days, that we may apply our Hearts unto Wiſdom; make us duly to conſider how ſhort our Time is, and that there is no repenting in the Grave, whither we are going. O Lord we know not what may be to Morrow; Grant us therefore Grace to ſeek, and to ſecure that Pardon to Day, which we may otherwiſe never obtain to all Eternity. Hear us O Merciful God, we beſeech thee, and grant that while we live in this World, we may have our Converſation

ſation in Heaven; and that whenſoever thou ſhalt be pleaſed to call us hence, we may be received into thy heavenly Habitations through the Merits of our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

ALmighty and everlaſting God, by whoſe Spirit the whole Body of the Church is govern'd and ſanctified, receive our Supplications and Prayers, which we offer before thee, for all Eſtates of Men, in thy holy Church; that every Member of the ſame in his Vocation, and Miniſtry, may truly and godly ſerve thee. Particularly we beſeech thee to protect and defend our Soveraign Lord King GEORGE, and all the Royal Family; preſerve him in thy Faith, Fear and Love; proſper his Reign with long Happineſs here on Earth, and crown him with everlaſting Glory hereafter. We beſeech thee alſo to enlighten all thoſe who are in Darkneſs and Error; and

and give them Repentance to the Acknowledgment of the Truth; that all the Ends of the Earth, may remember themſelves and be turned to the Lord; and we may all become one Flock under the great Shepherd and Biſhop of our Souls, Jeſus Chriſt, our bleſſed Saviour, and Redeemer. *Amen.*

ALmighty and everliving God, we give thee moſt humble Thanks, that thou haſt vouchſafed to call us, to the Knowledge of thy Grace, and Faith in thee. Encreaſe this Knowledge, and confirm this Faith in us evermore. Give us the comfort of thy holy Spirit, and multiply upon us thy manifold Gifts of Grace; the Spirit of Wiſdom, and Underſtanding; the Spirit of Counſel, and ghoſtly Strength; and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of true Godlineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O God

O God from whom every good and perfect Gift cometh, make thy ſelf preſent to our Minds; and into whatſoever Place, or Company our Occaſions ſhall lead us this Day, O let the Love, and Fear of thee rule in our Souls. Keep us Chaſt in all our Thoughts; temperate in all our Enjoyments; humble in our Opinions of our ſelves; and charitable in all our Speeches of others. Give us O Lord a meek and peaceable Spirit under all Provocations; make us ſincere; and faithful in our Profeſſions; and ſo exactly juſt, and upright in all our Dealings; that no neceſſity may tempt us, nor Opportunity allure us, to defraud, or go beyond our Neighbours. Afford us O Lord, convenient Supplies, in all our reaſonable Neceſſities; make us diligent in that Station, and Calling wherein thou haſt placed us; and be thou pleaſed to give ſuch Succeſs to our honeſt Endeavours, as thou ſeeſt moſt expedient for

for us; and whatever may happen to us, by the Appointment of thy wiſe Providence, teach us O Lord, not to repine, but contentedly to ſubmit to it; and in all our Paſſage through this World, and our manifold Concerns therein; Suffer not O Lord our Hearts to be too much ſet upon it; but let them ſurely there be fix'd, where true Joys are only to be found, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, Father of all Mercies, we thine unworthy Servants do give thee moſt humble and hearty Thanks for all thy Goodneſs and loving Kindneſs to us, and to all Men; We bleſs thee for our Creation, Preſervation, and all the Bleſſings of this Life; but above all, for thine ineſtimable Love in the Redemption of the World by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; for the means of Grace, and for the Hope of Glory. And we beſeech thee to give us that due

Senſe

Senſe of all thy Mercies, that our Hearts, may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we may ſhew forth thy Praiſe, not only with our Lips, but in our Lives; by giving up our ſelves to thy Service, and by walking before thee in Holineſs, and Righteouſneſs all our Days, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, to whom with thee, and the holy Ghoſt, be all Honour and Glory World without End. *Amen.*

O Almighty and Everlaſting God, who doſt govern all Things in Heaven and Earth, mercifully hear the Supplications of thy People, and grant us thy Peace all the Days of our Life, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

OUr Father, which art in Heaven; hallow'd be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread.

And

And forgive us our Treſpaſſes, As we forgive them that Treſpaſs againſt us. And lead us not into Temptation; But deliver us from Evil: For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

UNto thy gracious Mercy and Protection O God, we commit our ſelves; Lord bleſs us, and keep us; Lord make thy Face to ſhine upon us, and be gracious unto us; O Lord lift up the light of thy Countenance upon us, and give us Peace both now and evermore. *Amen.*

Evening Prayer
for a
FAMILY.

LOrd, we know not what to pray for, as we ought; O let thy Spirit help our Infirmities, and enable us to offer up a ſpiritual Sacrifice, acceptable unto thee by Jeſus Chriſt. Let our Prayers be ſet forth in thy Sight, O Lord, as the Incenſe, and the lifting up of our hands, as an Evening Sacrifice. *Amen.*

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father; we have erred and ſtrayed from thy Ways like loſt Sheep; we have followed too much the Devices and Deſires of our own Hearts; we have offended againſt thy holy Laws; we have left undone thoſe

things which we ought to have done; and we have done thoſe things which we ought not to have done; and there is no Health in us; but thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miſerable Offenders; ſpare thou them O God, which confeſs their Faults; reſtore thou them that are penitent; according to thy Promiſes declared unto Mankind, in Chriſt Jeſu our Lord; and grant O moſt merciful Father for his Sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and ſober Life; to the Glory of thy holy Name.

ALmighty and everlaſting God, who hateſt nothing that thou haſt made, and doſt forgive the Sins of all them that are penitent; create, and make in us new and contrite Hearts; that we worthily lamenting our Sins, and acknowledging our Wretchedneſs, may obtain of thee, the God of all Mercy, perfect Remiſſion and Forgiveneſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.* O God,

O God, from whom all holy Desires, all good Counsels, and all just Works do proceed, give unto thy Servants that Peace, which the World cannot give; that both our Hearts, may be set to obey thy Commandments; and also that by thee, we being defended from the Fear of our Enemies, may pass our Time in Rest and Quietness, through the Merits of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, who seest that we have no Power of our selves, to help our selves, keep us both outwardly in our Bodies, and Inwardly in our Souls, that we may be defended from all Adversities which may happen to the Body, and from all evil Thoughts, which may assault and hurt the Soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WE humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon

on our Infirmities; and for the Glory of thy Name, turn from us all thoſe Evils, that we moſt righteouſly have deſerved; and grant that in all our Troubles, we may put our whole Truſt, and Confidence in thy Mercy; and evermore ſerve thee in Holineſs and Pureneſs of Living, to thy Honour and Glory, through our only Mediator, and Advocate Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, we beſeech thee to protect, and defend our Soveraign Lord King GEORGE, and all the Royal Family; preſerve him in thy Faith, Fear, and Love; proſper his Reign with long Happineſs here on Earth, and crown him with everlaſting Glory hereafter, for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake.

O God the Creator and Preſerver of all Mankind, we humbly beſeech thee for all Sorts, and Conditions

ditions of Men, that thou wouldſt be pleaſed to make thy Ways known unto them, thy ſaving Health unto all Nations. More eſpecially we pray for the good Eſtate of the Catholick Church; that it may be ſo guided and govern'd by thy good Spirit; that all who profeſs, and call themſelves Chriſtians, may be led into the Way of Truth; and hold the Faith in Unity of Spirit, in the Bond of Peace, and in Righteouſneſs of Life. Finally we commend to thy Fatherly Goodneſs, all thoſe who are any ways afflicted, or diſtreſs'd in Mind, Body, or Eſtate; that it may pleaſe thee to comfort and relieve them according to their ſeveral Neceſſities, giving them Patience under their Sufferings, and an happy Iſſue out of all their Afflictions; and this we beg for Jeſus Chriſt his Sake. *Amen.*

O Almighty and everlaſting God give unto us, the Increaſe of

Faith, Hope, and Charity, and leave us not deſtitute, we beſeech thee, of ſuch Gifts of thy holy Spirit, as thou ſeeſt neceſſary for us; nor yet of Grace to uſe them always to thine Honour and Glory, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O Merciful and gracious God, as thou art our Father, and we thy Children, let thy Bleſſings, we beſeech thee, deſcend and reſt, upon this Family now aſſembled before thee. Let Health and Peace, be within this Dwelling, and let Holineſs and Righteouſneſs dwell in our Hearts for ever. Give us, O Lord, the Ornament of a meek and quiet and contented Spirit, that our Souls may be reſigned to thy Will, and never dare to Murmur or Repine at thy Diſpenſations. Lord make us exactly careful, to render to every Man, his due; and grant us an univerſal Charity and Compaſſion towards all the World. And becauſe through the Frailty

Frailty of our Nature, we cannot always ſtand upright, grant us ſuch Strength and Protection, as may ſupport us in all Dangers, and carry us through all Temptations, through Jeſus Chriſt, our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, Father of all Mercies; we thine unworthy Servants do give thee moſt humble and hearty Thanks for all thy Goodneſs and loving Kindneſs to us, and to all Men; We bleſs thee for our Creation, Preſervation, and all the Bleſſings of this Life; but above all, for thine ineſtimable Love in the Redemption of the World by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; for the Means of Grace; and for the Hope of Glory. And we beſeech thee to give us that due Senſe of all thy Mercies, that our Hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we may ſhew forth thyPraiſe, not only with our Lips, but in our Lives; by giving up our ſelves to thy Service, and by walking before thee in

in Holineſs, and Righteouſneſs all our Days, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, to whom with thee, and the holy Ghoſt, be all Honour and Glory World without End. *Amen.*

O Bleſſed Lord, the Keeper of *Iſrael*, that neither ſlumbers nor ſleeps, be pleaſed in thy Mercy to watch over us this Night, keep us by thy Grace from all Works of Darkneſs, and defend us by thy Power from all Dangers; grant us moderate and refreſhing Sleep, ſuch as may fit us for the Duties of the Day following; and Lord, make us ever mindfull of that Time, when we ſhall lie down in the Duſt: And becauſe we know neither the Day, nor the Hour of our Maſter's Coming, grant us Grace that we may be always ready; that we may never live in ſuch a State, as we ſhall fear to die in; but that whether we live, we may live unto the Lord, or whether we die, we may die unto the Lord; ſo that living and

dying

dying, we may be thine, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

ALmighty God, who haſt given us Grace at this Time with one accord, to make our common Supplications unto thee; and doſt promiſe, that when two or Three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their Requeſt; fulfill now O Lord the Deſires and Petitions of thy Servants, as may be moſt expedient for them; granting us in this World knowledge of thy Truth, and in the World to come. Life everlaſting. *Amen.*

OUr Father which art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy Name, Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread. And forgive us our Treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us And lead us not into Temptation; but deliver us from Evil: For thine is the

the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

UNto thy gracious Mercy, and Protection, O God, we commit our ſelves; Lord bleſs us, and keep us; Lord make thy Face to ſhine upon us, and be gracious unto us; O Lord lift up, the Light of thy Countenance upon us; and give us Peace, both now, and evermore. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a ſick Perſon.

ALmighty everliving God, Maker of Mankind, who doſt correct thoſe whom thou doſt love, and chaſtiſe every one whom thou doſt receive; we beſeech thee to have Mercy upon this thy Servant viſited with thine Hand; and to grant that he may take his Sickneſs patiently; and recover his bodily Health (if it be thy gracious Will) and whenſoever his Soul ſhall depart from the Body; it may be without Spot, preſented unto thee

thee, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for a Sick Child.

O Almighty God and merciful Father, to whom alone belong the Iſſues of Life and Death; look down from Heaven, we humbly beſeech thee with the Eyes of Mercy upon this Child now lying upon the Bed of Sickneſs: Viſit him O Lord, with thy Salvation; deliver him in thy good appointed Time, from his bodily Pain, and ſave his Soul for thy Mercies Sake. That if it ſhall be thy Pleaſure to prolong his Days here on Earth, he may live to thee, and be an Inſtrument of thy Glory by ſerving thee faithfully, and doing good in his Generaiton; or elſe receive him into thoſe heavenly Habitations, where the Souls of them that ſleep in the Lord Jeſus, enjoy perpetual Reſt and Felicity. Grant this, O Lord, for the Sake of our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

Since

SInce my first Design in Printing this little *Manual*, I have found it convenient to add the following Prayers for a Person in his more private Retirements. Which (as I do not take upon me to recommend to any, who are already better supply'd) so I hope, no one will censure me for providing for those who are under my Immediate Care, whose Wants, I am best acquainted with; And for whom I am to render an Account at the last Day.

DEVOTIONS
For a Perſon in
PRIVATE.

A Confeſſion.

O Moſt Mighty and moſt Glorious Lord, who art a Conſuming Fire to all unrepenting Sinners; And of purer Eyes than to behold Iniquity; how ſhall I, a poor ſinfull Creature, (who am but Duſt and Aſhes, and not worthy to lift up mine Eyes to Heaven) preſume to appear before thee, the great, and dreadfull God.

I do with Shame and Grief confeſs, and bewail the manifold and great Sins, which I have committed in Thought, Word, and Deed, againſt thy Divine Majeſty; daily provoking that

Power that can deſtroy me in a moment, and flying in the Face of that Mercy, that ſuſtains and ſupports me every Day of my Life.

O Lord I Confeſs, I was born in Sin, and have ever ſince lead a Life, ſuitable to that ſad beginning; I have ſinn'd O Lord, and have committed Iniquity; I have done wickedly, and have rebell'd againſt thee by departing from thy Precepts, and from thy Judgments. But O thou great Lover of Souls, whither ſhall a Wretch, thus laden with Guilt and Miſery go, but to the Fountain of Mercy? Whither ſhall he look but to a God, who had rather Glory in the Converſion of a Sinner, than in taking Vengeance on him?

Unto thee therefore, I come, O gracious Lord, and with an humble and penitent Heart, I entreat thee to have Pity on me; to pardon the Failings, and Follies, the Vanities, and indiſcretions of my Life paſt; and to let me know,

know, and feel in my Soul, that thou haſt forgiven me all my Sins.

O Lord, I have no Hopes, but in thy Mercy, and in the Merits of my Redeemer; O Turn from me all thoſe Evils, that I have ſo juſtly deſerved, and let me never feel the ſad Effects of that Anger, which my Sins have raiſed againſt me; But if in this I know not what I ask, and thy Wiſdom ſhall ſee fit to lay upon me here, ſome marks of thy diſpleaſure againſt Sin; Yet O Lord, moſt Holy, O God moſt Mighty; O Holy, and moſt merciful Saviour, thou moſt worthy Judge Eternal, Deliver me not into the bitter Pains of Eternal Death. But enable me, I beſeech thee by the Power of thy Grace, ſo to renew and purify my Heart that I may hereafter live, in an humble and dutyfull Obedience to thee, all the reſt of my days; And that when thou ſhalt be pleaſed to take me out of this World, I may be found ready and prepared for my

great Account; and be received into that happy and peaceful State, where there ſhall be no more Death, nor Sorrow; where all Tears ſhall be wip'd from my Eyes; and where I ſhall no longer Sin, againſt the greateſt and beſt of Beings; Grant this O merciful God, thro' the Mediation, and for the Sake of my Redeemer Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

A Thankſgiving.

O Moſt Gracious and Bountiful God, who art the giver of all good Gifts; I, thy unworthy ſervant, who have ſo deeply taſted of them, deſire to render thee the Tribute of my humbleſt Praiſes for all the Comforts and Enjoyments which thou haſt afforded me, from the Beginning of my Life, to this preſent Time; For my Health, Friends, Food, and Raiment; For the particular Preſervation of me this Day, (Night) and all

all the other Expreſſions of thy Goodneſs and Bounty towards me..... But above all, I deſire to bleſs thy great and glorious Name, O God for the Redemption of the World by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, for the Means of Grace which thou haſt afforded me in this Life; and for the Hopes thou haſt given me of Everlaſting Happineſs in the World to come.

Poſſeſs my Soul O merciful God with a due and becoming Senſe of theſe and all thy other Mercies towards me, and let my daily Experience of thy Goodneſs, be a Means of renewing my Praiſe and Thankſgivings to thee all the Days of my Life, through Jeſus Chriſt, my Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

A Prayer for ſeveral Graces.

O Merciful God, make thy ſelf preſent to my Mind, and ſo govern and direct me in all the Actions

and Deſigns of my Life, that neither the Corruptions of my own Nature nor the Flatteries and Vanities of the world, may ever hinder me in the diſcharge of any Duty, or draw me into the Commiſſion of any Sin.

Keep me under a conſtant and awefull ſenſe of thy Divine Preſence; for I know, O God, that thou art about my Path, and about my Bed; and ſpyeſt out all my Ways, and that there is not a word in my Tongue, but thou knoweſt it, and will bring me into Judgment for it, at the great day of thy appearing.

Make me therefore O gracious God, I beſeech thee, diligent in all my Duties, and watchfull againſt all thoſe Temptations that ſurround me in this day of Tryal; endue me with a ſpirit of Contentment and Reſignation under all the diſpenſations of thy wiſe Providence; make me ſober and temperate in my Enjoyments; and chaſt and modeſt in my Thoughts. Enable me to perform all thoſe parts of Juſtice,

tice, which I owe to others, and give me ſuch Bowels of Mercy and Compaſſion, that I may never fail to do all Acts of Charity to all Men, whether they be my Friends, or my greateſt and bittereſt Enemies.

Root out of my heart O Lord, all Pride, and Envy, and Cenſoriouſneſs; all bitterneſs and anger, and malice; and whatever elſe is contrary to thy bleſſed will, and to that holy and chriſtian Temper, which thou loveſt and delighteſt in.

And finally, in all my paſſage thro, this world, and my manifold concerns therein, ſuffer not O Lord, I beſeech thee, my heart to be too much ſet upon it; but enable me to extend my Hopes, and Views into that glorious and endleſs ſtate that is before me, that I may live in a conſtant preparation for it; and that when thou ſhalt call me to give an account of my Stewardſhip, I may be able to do it with joy, and to ſtand before thee in that great Day, when I am to render

an

an account, of the things done in the body; whether they be good or Evil. Grant this O Merciful God for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

A General Interceſſion.

O Lord accept of my Supplications and Prayers which I humbly preſume to make before thee, for the whole race of mankind. Look down I beſeech thee in an eſpecial manner with the Eyes of Pity and Compaſſion, upon that Church, which thou haſt purchaſed to thy ſelf with the Blood of thy beloved Son. Heal O Lord the breaches and compoſe the differences that have ſo miſerably rent and divided it; and by thy Almighty power, put ſome ſtop to that ſpirit of Infidelity, and Prophaneneſs; to that Pride and Vanity; that bitterneſs and uncharitableneſs that have overſpread the face of the Chriſtian World, and ſeem to threaten it with the laſt and moſt dreadfull of all thy Judgments,

the

the Removal of thy Goſpel from amongſt us.

O Lord the Storm is riſing faſt upon us; and it is not in the power of man to allay it; But O, thou who didſt once rebuke the winds and the Seas, and they were ſtill, be pleaſed in thy mercy to allay this greater tempeſt. O ſpeak to the hearts of thy People, who are called by thy name, and by the mighty workings of thy Spirit, enable them to hear, and to diſcern the voice of the true Shepherd.

And for thoſe parts of the world, who are yet in darkneſs, and the ſhaddow of Death, O let the Light of the glorious Goſpel break forth and ſhine upon them; that all the World may ſee, the ſalvation of God, and the whole Earth may be fill'd with the knowledge of the Lord; That there may be no longer a Soul, that ſhall be ignorant of the true God, nor any that ſhall blaſpheme the Name of the holy One; but that every Mouth may be a Trumpet of thy Praiſe; and every heart, an Altar,

tar, where pure, and holy Sacrifices ſhall be offer'd unto thee.

O Lord, thou haſt ſaid, that every Knee ſhall bow to Chriſt, and every Tongue confeſs him; That from the riſing of the Sun, even unto the going down of the ſame, thy Name ſhall be great among the *Gentiles*; That in thy own good time, all *Iſrael*, ſhall be ſaved; and that at the laſt, thou wilt in thy abundant Goodneſs, pour out thy Spirit upon all Fleſh. O let the Waters proceed from thy Throne which ſhall do this Work, and make the people holy; That all the World may rejoyce in the Lord, and joy in the God of their ſalvation; and that we may all become one Flock, under the great Shepherd, and Biſhop of our Souls, Jeſus Chriſt our bleſſed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Malac. 1. 11. *Iſai.* 44. 3. *Ezrek.* 47. *Jocel* 2: 28 *and the* 3. 18. *Rom*: 11. 26. *Hab.* 3. 18. *Revel.* 22. 1.

A more

A more particular Intercession.

O Thou Father of Compassion, and God of Mercy, Pity, and relieve all those who are in any kind of affliction, or distress; the Poor, the Sick, the Fatherless, and the Widow; and in thy own good Time, deliver them out of all their troubles.

Extend thy Goodness, I beseech thee to all my Relations and Friends, particularly to. { Here mention such as you desire to pray for.

Keep them O Lord under the protection of thy good Providence, and give them such a Portion of the Necessaries and Comforts, of this life, as thou seest best and fittest for them. But however thou shalt be pleased to dispose of them in this World, O let them be found of the number of thy faithful Servants in that which is to come. And tho' Death must in a short Time, part us here; Yet grant O merciful God that we may meet again with joy, at the Resurrection of the

the Juſt; and dwell together with thee in thoſe happy Manſions of Glory, which thou haſt prepared for them that love thee, thro' Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; *Amen.*

In whoſe moſt holy Name and Words I ſum up all my Petitions, as he hath taught me,

Our Father which art in Heaven, *&c.*

For Preſervation.

O Lord God, be pleaſed in thy Mercy to watch over me this (Day, Night,) that no Evil may happen unto me, but that I, and mine, may be ſafe under thy gracious Protection through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

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